

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 Expressing the censure of the Senate.

2 WHEREAS, on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, Senator L. Louise Lucas, the President pro tempore
3 of the Senate of Virginia and a member of the Senate of Virginia since 1992, joined protesters gathered
4 at a historic memorial monument in Portsmouth to aide and assist the group of protesters in the
5 desecration and destruction of public property with no expressed or implied authority, violating § 18.2-
6 22 of the Code of Virginia, Conspiracy to commit felony, and § 18.2-137 of the Code of Virginia,
7 Injuring, etc., any property, monument, etc.; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator L. Louise Lucas stood with a group of people who were shaking up cans of
9 spray paint, at which time Portsmouth City police officers say Senator Lucas approached them and
10 warned, "I'm Senator Louise Lucas, I know I'm in disguise, but they are going to put some paint on this
11 thing. You cannot arrest them. You need to call Dr. Patton, because they are going to do it. You can't
12 stop them. This is city property"; Dr. Lydia Pettis Patton was the Portsmouth City Manager at that time;
13 these exact words by Senator Lucas are documented in police body camera footage and by others in
14 attendance at the incident; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator L. Louise Lucas misused her position as a state Senator to instruct police
16 officers to stand down, allowing rioters and looters to spray paint, damage, vandalize, and ultimately set
17 fire and topple to the ground a 56-foot (17-meter) memorial monument, which fell on a man who
18 sustained life-threatening injuries and continues to recover from his serious injuries; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator L. Louise Lucas caused an entirely dangerous situation in the City of
20 Portsmouth; she encouraged a mob to destroy public property, giving them unauthorized permission to
21 vandalize the property that resulted in a person getting seriously injured; and

22 WHEREAS, Senator L. Louise Lucas, an elected state Senator encouraged a mob to vandalize
23 city property and then as a result a person got hurt and now blames the police for not disbanding the
24 mob; and

25 WHEREAS, Senator L. Louise Lucas needs to be held accountable for her actions; she is a state
26 Senator and should know better than to tell police they cannot arrest people or disband a mob when they
27 are vandalizing property and breaking the law; the statue was going to come down and could have come
28 down lawfully and without injury, but Senator Lucas misrepresented her authority as a state Senator and
29 actively participated in directing actions to incite a crime and now someone is seriously hurt, and she
30 needs to be held accountable; and

31 WHEREAS, Rules 18 (h) and 53 (b) of the Senate provide that the Senate may, by a majority
32 vote, censure one of its members for disorderly and inappropriate conduct, to include breaking the law; it
33 was Senator L. Louise Lucas's inflammatory statements and actions before, during, and after the events
34 that led to serious injury of both public property and serious injury to a man that constitute a failure to
35 uphold her oath of office and conduct unbecoming of a Senator; Senator Lucas used her position in a
36 way in which she should not have; her actions incited a riot in which a person was seriously injured; and

37 WHEREAS, as a result of her actions, Senator L Louise Lucas was charged with conspiracy to
38 commit a felony and injury to a monument in excess of \$1,000 according to § 18.2-22 of the Code of
39 Virginia, Conspiracy to commit felony, and § 18.2-137 of the Code of Virginia, Injuring, etc., any
40 property, monument, etc., which specifies that "[t]he amount of loss caused by the destruction, defacing,
41 damage, or removal of such property, memorial, or monument may be established by proof of the fair
42 market cost of repair or fair market replacement value"; and

43 WHEREAS, while these charges were later dropped, the results of Senator L. Louise Lucas's
44 actions remain; public property was destroyed and a man was critically injured; she must be held
45 accountable for her actions; now, therefore, be it

46 RESOLVED by the Senate, That the Senate of Virginia does censure Senator L. Louise Lucas for
47 encouraging protestors to break the law and asking police to stand down while rioters broke the law and
48 destroyed public property, which is a felony offense that led to the life-threatening injury of a man.
49 Senator L. Louise Lucas has clearly abused her position as a state Senator.

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